



Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update **October 2005**

Next HCDOP coordinating group meeting

- *When/where*
 - **November 8, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, at the PSAT office in Olympia**
- *Proposed agenda items for the next meeting*
 - Comments/questions on the Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program to implement RCW 90.88 (Christensen, HCCC)
 - Summarize and review status of Kitsap County's early action project, by Keith Grellner (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Briefing from Terry Hull on the progress of the septic projects (Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Check-in/discussion on the overall HCDOP program, evaluate progress, and start discussions for scoping year 2 planning (Hannafious, HCSEG)

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - Final Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) completed. The document describes all of the data collection and model development activities underway and provides a central repository for methods and approaches. Comments and other input were received from USGS, UW, Ecology, EPA, the Skokomish Tribe, Kitsap County Health District, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, and Pacific Shellfish Institute. The final document will be posted on Ecology's publications web page and on the Hood Canal web site. (Roberts, Ecology)
 - As part of the data management portion of the HCDOP, the UW/PRISM group met with the Paladin Data System group at the Paladin office in Poulsbo on October 14. This meeting sets the stage for future collaborations regarding data management needs. It was identified that Paladin could potentially provide data streaming needs for the various model environments developed and maintained by the PRISM group, including the needs of the HCDOP. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - The second HCDOP- IAM all-hands quarterly meeting was held on the UW campus (Condon Hall) on October 25. Minutes, including actions items, from the meeting have been posted on the HCDOP website (www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/news-docs/publications.jsp). (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - A listening device used aboard a Citizen's Monitoring boat to routinely communicate with the McLane Moored Profiler (MMP) found that the profiler had malfunctioned. The MMP was subsequently recovered and redeployed and currently seems to be operating. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

- The third Oceanic Remote Chemical-optical Analyzer (ORCA) buoy was deployed north of the Hood Canal Bridge with the intent to begin monitoring the boundary conditions critical to effectively run the marine model. The instrumentation is being programmed and the complete system is anticipated to be operational in November. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- The Hoodsport ORCA buoy was outfitted with the sensor package and weather station. The Hoodsport library has agreed to host an antenna in order to provide cell phone data streaming of the ORCA data (similar to the Sister's Point ORCA). On the return visit to verify the operation of the sensor package, it was found to have a programming error and was taken back to the lab for troubleshooting. The reprogrammed package will be installed the first week of November. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Conference presentations*
 - Jan Newton was invited to speak at the Heceta Head Coastal Conference in Florence, Oregon on October 29. She presented information regarding the status of HABs and hypoxia in the PNW and the utility of observing systems.
 - The Estuarine Research Conference held in Norfolk, Virginia was the forum for various HCDOP related topics. Tony Paulson and Bill Simonds provided information from USGS studies including nitrogen input estimates into Lynch Cove and results from groundwater sampling. Jan Newton provided information which focused on the status and factors contributing to hypoxia in Hood Canal. Dan Hannafious provided information on how citizens are being integrated into the larger HCDOP science program.

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - HCCC has been working with the Paradise Bay community in Jefferson County and Clifton Beach community in Mason County to help them develop community sewage systems. Both communities' systems have tentative financial support of more than 50 percent of homeowners. Both communities' should be preparing to hire design engineers by the end of 2005. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - At the next HCCC Board meeting November 16, we have scheduled a meeting of the three counties health officials to discuss a number of issues related to corrective actions in Hood Canal. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - Discussed research and other potential projects related to Hood Canal with Loren Stern of WDNR (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Prepared a summary document on Hood Canal strategic plan for the joint Puget Sound Action Team/Puget Sound Council meeting as part of the staff's recommendations to the joint team/council (Fagergren, Criss, PSAT)
 - Met with Lalena Amiotte and Jacob Quincy on the current year's grant to the Skokomish Tribe for disposing of excess chum carcasses and production of high quality compost. The fishing season is scheduled to begin in early November. (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Convened the interagency state Hood Canal team meeting on various sewerage projects in the Hoodsport to Skokomish area and the Belfair (and north shore) areas. (Fagergren, PSAT)

- Scheduled a meeting with Doug Micheau, Director of Utilities, Parks and Recreation in early November, to discuss the sewerage options for the Hoodspout to Skokomish area (Fagergren, PSAT)
- Washington Sea Grant's Simple Techniques project now has 1,842 households participating in the program to help eliminate excess food waste from entering household septic systems. (Knackstedt, PSAT; King, Sea Grant)
- Washington State University – Jefferson County's Shore Stewards program held one workshop on Canal-Friendly Gardening. They have another workshop planned for Jefferson County on erosion on November 8, and are coordinating with the WSU Kitsap Extension to plan a native gardening workshop in Kitsap County. WSU Extension has disseminated their first batch of 500 Shore Stewards books, reprinted an additional 500 books, and begun distribution of the new books. Twenty-seven people have signed up for the Shore Stewards program. (Knackstedt, PSAT; Pearson, WSU Jefferson County).

Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
 - Emily Piper gave a presentation on Hood Canal's low dissolved oxygen problem and the watershed pledge program to the Mason County Master Gardeners as part of their Water Quality training on October 28. Several people signed up for the watershed program after the presentation (Piper, HCWEN)
- *Comments/questions from public*
 - A Mason County resident wondered if it would be possible to have Puget Sound Energy or other power companies put in a section for Septic Loan Contributions on monthly bills in the same manner that there is "warm home fund" where you can contribute to the heating expenses of low income families. This money could be managed in a revolving fund, low/no interest loan etc. (Piper, HCWEN)
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - The Hood Canal Watershed Pledge is conducting a follow-up questionnaire with participants to help gauge the effectiveness of the program and the commitments from participants. The survey is beginning the first week of November. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Hood Canal Watershed Pledge and Shore Stewards are participating in a meeting of Puget Sound/ Peninsula businesses in Silverdale on November 10 called Sound Tourism Sound Environment. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - American Water Resources Association will hold a special panel on Hood Canal on November 10. Jan Newton, Dan Hannafious and Tony Paulson will participate in the panel and Dave Christensen from the HCCC will moderate the session. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - The next HCCC Board meeting is November 16, 1:30-4:30 pm at the Silverdale Community Center. When completed, the full agenda will be posted on the HCCC web site: www.hccc.wa.gov. (Christensen, HCCC)
 - The 2005 Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Award Conference is being co-hosted by the HCCC and University of Washington on December 2 at

Alderbrook Resort and Spa. HCDOP-IAM researchers will present up-to-date findings in the morning session. In the afternoon, the HCCC will honor those who dedicate their time and efforts to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of Hood Canal. (Christensen, HCCC)

- Beginning in January HCWEN will meet every other month on the first Thursday of the month. The January meeting will be held at the Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management (SSWM) Annex Conference Room from 1-4pm. (Piper, HCWEN)

Watershed Planning

- Both the Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 14 and 16 Planning Units (covering the south and most of the west shore of Hood Canal) are in the process of finalizing the comprehensive watershed plan recommendations under RCW 90.82. Water quality education and outreach activities are emphasized throughout. (Wiatrack, ECY)
- The WRIA 16 Planning Unit will hold an Open House on their draft plan at the Brinnon Community Center on Thursday evening November 3, starting about 6:30. Their next Planning Unit meeting is scheduled for November 17 at the Hoodsport Library (tentatively scheduled to start at 1:00 pm). WRIA 16 is the key watershed in the Hood Canal basin since, through an agreement with the WRIA 14 Planning Unit, they are including the South Shore of Lower Hood Canal in the WRIA 16 plan. (Wiatrack, ECY)
- Anyone wishing to receive ongoing information (agendas, minutes, etc.) on the WRIA planning effort can be added to the e-mail distribution list by contacting: Susan Gulick, Facilitator and Technical Project Manager Sound Resolutions E-mail: soundres@earthlink.net. (Wiatrack, ECY)

Funding

- *Funding now available*
 - Region 10 EPA is accepting applications to fund projects that support community driven approaches to solving environmental problems in Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.) The funds are available to a wide range of organizations including local governments, tribes, states, and nonprofit groups such as watershed councils. Proposals will be accepted for projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This year's proposals must be postmarked or submitted electronically by December 15, 2005. For more information visit: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/rgi/RGI+Solicitation>
 - Ecology Water Quality Program staff have been negotiating several grant agreements from the FY 2006 funding cycle with recipients in the Hood Canal drainage. Negotiations have been completed with Jefferson County for the Septic System Surveys Project and with Mason Conservation District for the Hood Canal Nutrient Management Program. The agreements are now with Water Quality Program headquarters staff for finalization and signatures. (McKee, ECY)

Legislative or Congressional action or briefings

- *Briefings*
 - The House Select Committee on Hood Canal held a Hearing and Worksession at the Theler Wetland Center in Belfair. The following participants gave presentations on corrective action and education efforts in Hood Canal: Jay Watson and Dave Christensen (HCCC), Duane Fagergren (PSAT), Bob Simmons (WSU and HCWEN), Jerry Deeter and Mindy Fohn (Kitsap County Health District), Debbie Riley (Mason County), and Rich Geiger (Mason Conservation District).
- *Implementation*
 - Duane Fagergren and Brad Ack with PSAT and Dave Christensen, and Jay Watson with HCCC met to discuss the Rehabilitation Program and cooperative work over the next biennium as part of the implementation of HB 2097. (Fagergren, PSAT)

Communications

- *Communications activities*
 - PSAT is developing an electronic newsletter to enhance communications to external audiences (media, decision makers, public). This e-newsletter would take the place of the abbreviated monthly report that currently serves this purpose and expand this readership. The full report that is sent to all HCDOP partners will stay the same. Should have a template of the e newsletter to share at the Nov. 8 HCDOP Coordinating Group meeting. (Criss, PSAT)
 - PSAT is updating and redesigning their Hood Canal web pages. The launch date goal is the middle of December. (Criss, PSAT)
- *Media contacts or requests*
 - Duane Fagergren interviewed with John Williams (“Still Hope Productions”) on various topics related to behavior change and human activities and education that can assist the recovery of Hood Canal. This may be used as part of a documentary on Hood Canal as referenced in last month’s report by Jan Newton and Dan Hannafious. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- *Media coverage*

Note: There is an article in Port Townsend Leader is in the November 2 issue about the HCCC survey findings. (Christensen, HCCC)

Researchers to study Puget Sound hypoxia

The Seattle Times

October 25, 2005

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2002581506_dige25m.html

State, U.S. Coast Guard investigating spill in Hood Canal

The Olympian

October 17, 2005

<http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051017/NEWS/51017013>